

# Four Men Arrested by Troopers for Attempted Home Invasion and Thefts from Vehicles-Harrington

*Harrington, DE-* Delaware State Police arrested **Eric J. Tomko, 18, of Frederica, Dwayne D Wiltbank, 19, of Lincoln, Damian J. Lee, 22, of Smyrna, and Howard W. Bowman, 19, of Milford,** on multiple criminal charges after being arrested early Thursday morning for an attempted home invasion and thefts from unlocked vehicles. **Howard Bowman** was also arrested for additional charges after shooting at an individual when confronted during the theft from unlocked vehicles.

On February 3, 2022, at approximately 1:35 a.m., officers were dispatched to the Jackson's Ridge community for a report of individuals actively breaking into vehicles. At approximately the same time, a 27-year-old male was sleeping inside a home in the 300 block of Jefferson Wood Drive when he heard the sound of someone walking around his property. When he looked outside, he observed a male wearing dark clothing and a ski-mask walk through his driveway and look into the windows of his parked car. The resident immediately exited his home and began yelling at the suspect to leave the property. The suspect began running, and the homeowner followed, resulting in the suspect turning around and firing one shot in the homeowner's direction. The homeowner immediately ducked and turned around to find cover. At this time, two Harrington Police Officers arrived at the scene to assist the Delaware State Police with the in-progress incident. A perimeter was established by responding officers, and a canvass of the area was conducted. As officers were canvassing Pleasant Pine Circle and Thornwood Drive, a silver sedan was observed, and troopers conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle. Contact was

made with the driver, Eric Tomko, and two firearms were located in plain sight inside the car. Tomko was taken into custody without incident and transported to Delaware State Police Troop 3. Dwayne Wiltbank and Damian Lee were located walking in the 100 block of E. Lucky Drive as troopers were canvassing the surrounding area. The two males were detained for further investigation.

The investigation determined Tomko, Wiltbank, and Lee planned to commit a home invasion earlier during the night, but after being unsuccessful with gaining entry, they responded to the Harrington communities to break into unsecured motor vehicles. Multiple thefts from unsecured vehicles occurred in the Lucky Estates, Pine Ridge, and Jackson's Ridge communities. Also involved in the incidents was a fourth suspect who was later identified as Howard W. Bowman. Through investigative measures, Bowman was identified as the suspect who shot at the victim on Jefferson Wood Drive. On February 3, 2022, Bowman turned himself in to Delaware State Police Troop 3.



Howard Bowman

- Attempted First Degree Murder (Felony)
- 2 counts- Wearing a Disguise During the Commission of a Felony (Felony)
- 2 counts- Possession of a Deadly Weapon During the Commission of a Felony (Felony)
- Attempted to Commit Home Invasion (Felony)
- 4 counts- Conspiracy Second Degree (Felony)
- 2 counts- Attempted to Commit Theft Under \$1,500
- 6 counts- Conspiracy Third Degree
- 8 counts- Theft Under \$1,500
- 7 counts- Criminal Trespass Third Degree
- 3 counts- Theft Under \$1,500 Where Victim is 62 Years of Age or Older (Felony)

Bowman was arraigned in the Justice of the Peace Court #7 and

committed to Sussex Correctional Institution on a \$108,500.00 cash bond.



Eric Tomko

- Attempted to Commit Home Invasion (Felony)
- 4 counts- Conspiracy Second Degree (Felony)
- Attempted to Commit Theft Under \$1,500
- 6 counts- Conspiracy Third Degree
- 8 counts- Theft Under \$1,500
- 7 counts- Criminal Trespass Third Degree
- 3 counts- Theft Under \$1,500 Where Victim is 62 Years of Age or Older (Felony)

Tomko was arraigned in the Justice of the Peace Court and released on a \$22,500.00 unsecured bond.



Dwayne D Wiltbank

- Wearing a Disguise During the Commission of a Felony (Felony)
- Possession of a Deadly Weapon During the Commission of a Felony (Felony)
- Attempted to Commit Home Invasion (Felony)
- 4 counts- Conspiracy Second Degree (Felony)
- Attempted to Commit Theft Under \$1,500
- 6 counts- Conspiracy Third Degree
- 8 counts- Theft Under \$1,500
- 7 counts- Criminal Trespass Third Degree
- 3 counts- Theft Under \$1,500 Where Victim is 62 Years of Age or Older (Felony)

Wiltbank was arraigned in the Justice of the Peace Court #7 and committed to Sussex Correctional Institution on a \$34,500.00 cash bond.



Damian Lee

- Wearing a Disguise During the Commission of a Felony (Felony)
- Possession of a Deadly Weapon During the Commission of a Felony (Felony)
- Attempted to Commit Home Invasion (Felony)
- 4 counts- Conspiracy Second Degree (Felony)
- Attempted to Commit Theft Under \$1,500
- 6 counts- Conspiracy Third Degree
- 8 counts- Theft Under \$1,500
- 7 counts- Criminal Trespass Third Degree
- 3 counts- Theft Under \$1,500 Where Victim is 62 Years of Age or Older (Felony)

Lee was arraigned in the Justice of the Peace Court #7 and committed to Sussex Correctional Institution on a \$35,000.00 cash bond.

This case remains active with the Delaware State Police Criminal Investigations Unit. Detectives are asking anyone in the Harrington communities who were a victim and did not report the crime to please contact Cpl/2 Dustin Dukes by calling 302-697-4454. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at <http://www.delaware.crimestoppers.com>.

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of a crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll-free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1-800-842-8461). You may also email the Victim Services Unit at [DSP\\_VictimServicesMail@delaware.gov](mailto:DSP_VictimServicesMail@delaware.gov)

You can follow the Delaware State Police by clicking on:

[Delaware State Police Official Web Site](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Nextdoor](#)

Please tell us how we're doing via our [Citizen Satisfaction Survey](#).

Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal  
Heather Pepper

Released: 020422 1620

-End-